

Blind Field Services

Meeting The Challenge Of Vision Loss

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As a result of SB 105 (Chapter 1102, Statutes of 2002), the California Department of Rehabilitation's Specialized Services Division and the Blind Field Services (BFS) unit were established in July 2003 to provide improved, specialized, and comprehensive services to people with vision loss. Over 70% of individuals with blindness who want to work are unemployed. Due to an aging population, there is a significant increase of older blind or visually impaired people who require independent living skills to increase social and economic independence, thus reducing dependence on family and public programs.

BFS is composed of 1 district administrator, 9 supervisors, 66 counselors and other staff located in DOR offices throughout the state. The counseling staff focuses its attention on providing high-quality vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to blind and visually impaired consumers.

FACTS

- BFS annually serves approximately 5,000 individuals with vision loss.
- Consumers served are 16 to 90 years old.
- The average weekly earnings for competitively employed BFS consumers are approximately \$619, which is well above the DOR average rate.
- Services include training in institutions of higher learning, low vision evaluations, assistive technology and adaptive aids and devices, job development and placement services.
- BFS works collaboratively with its community partners, which are specialized in providing services to people with vision loss.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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